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Statement Relating to State and County Land-Use Planning Committees

"Beginning in 1938, before the defense emergency arose, the Department of Agriculture and the land-grant colleges developed a land-use planning organization for integrating all activities in the field of agriculture. State Land-Use Planning Committees have been organized in 47 States. They consist of representative farmers, together with representatives of the principal agricultural and land-use agencies operating in the State. The farmer representatives usually come from different types of farming areas. Agency representatives include State Officers of Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Farm Security Administration, Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, Farm Credit Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, State Forest Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, and Agricultural Extension Service, with various other agencies represented in different States. The State Director of the Agricultural Extension Service is chairman, and the State representative of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is secretary of the State Committee.

"Similarly, in about 1,600 counties, county land-use planning committees have been organized, consisting of farmers and the local representatives of these agricultural agencies. The chairman is one of the farmer members, and the county agricultural agent usually serves as secretary.

"State Land-Use Planning Committees at the State level, and county land-use planning committees at the county level, serve as the central planning and coordinating group for all public agricultural programs operating in the State. Among other things, they examine and make recommendations on various types of action programs to be initiated; appraise the plans, programs, conclusions, and suggestions made by county planning committees; develop recommendations designed to integrate the several agricultural action programs in the State; and perform such other functions as are necessary to formulate well-rounded, comprehensive agricultural plans and programs, which are properly integrated with over-all national, State, or local programs.

"State and county land-use planning committees have no administrative responsibility, but use and depend entirely upon existing administrative machinery for the execution of agreed-upon plans and programs. In recent months, the land-use planning organization has contributed materially to meeting the impacts of the defense program, particularly the impacts on local communities caused by the location, construction, and operation of defense industry plants, cantonments, proving grounds, etc. It is assisting appropriate administrative agencies in land acquisition, relocation of farm people, rural housing, and many other related problems."



